

## General Information

Lovells Island is accessible by private boat (mooring only) or by free water taxi from Georges Island. The island is open daily from 9 A.M. to sunset, and seasonally from June to September, weekends through mid-October.

**VISITOR SERVICES** such as supervised swimming, picnic tables and portable toilets are available near the pier.

**CAMPING** is free of charge. For permit information, call the MDC at 727-5359.

**GUIDED TOURS** of the military and natural history of Lovells Island are offered daily. Please join us!

## Regulations

### FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND ENJOYMENT, THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED ON LOVELLS ISLAND:

- Alcohol
- Pets
- Fires, except in grills and below the high tide line
- Destruction, injury or removal of vegetation or structures
- Docking, except to load and unload
- Amplified sound
- Disposal of trash (carry on-carry off)



## A Commitment to Open Space and the Environment

In 1892, Charles Eliot proposed the creation of a Metropolitan Parks System. Eliot was a member of the Frederick Law Olmsted Landscape Architectural Firm, the first landscape architect to work on development of the parks system. Eliot believed that particularly in a crowded urban area, people needed easy access to and contact with nature and open space in order to relax, unwind and escape the daily pressure of city life. To that end Eliot developed a plan that would provide the growing city and its suburbs with scenery, parks and reservations to be held in perpetuity for the public's use and enjoyment.

Eliot's idea was to set aside beachfront along the bay, land along the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers and high ground throughout the Metropolitan area, and to turn this property into regional parks. He envisioned the creation of a series of parkways and roads built and maintained with aesthetics in mind, to make travel between the parks easy and attractive. By 1893 Eliot's design had begun to take shape as the state created the Metropolitan Parks Commission and placed with it 9,177 acres of reservation, 13 miles of ocean frontage, 56 miles of riverbank and seven parkways. Since then, the system has grown. The Commission acquired and preserved thousands of additional acres of parkland that fit into Eliot's original design. It also built new parks, skating rinks, swimming pools, athletic fields, band shells and other recreational outlets. Even today, more property is being preserved; more historical sites are being restored; more ways to make the regional parks system safe and accessible and attractive are being devised.

We can only maintain this great park system with public support and cooperation. Please do your part by respecting each property and complying with all rules and regulations. Thank you.

**Metropolitan District Commission**  
20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA 02108  
Telephone (617) 727-5215

Michael S. Dukakis  
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James S. Hoyte  
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Commissioner

# Lovells Island

Boston Harbor Islands  
State Park



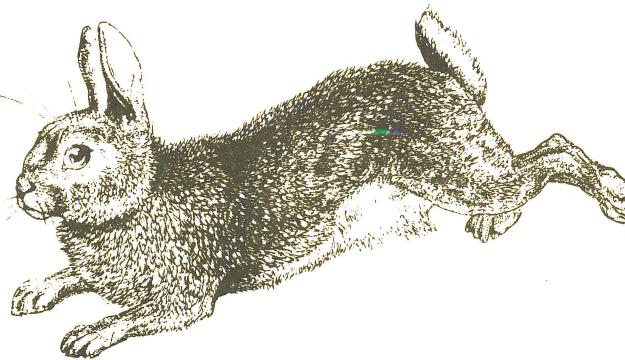
## Natural History

The appearance of Lovells Island has changed dramatically since it was first formed by the retreating glacier 12,000 years ago.

Native Americans used the Island to fish, garden and trade with other Indians while taking advantage of the cool breezes of summer.

Then European settlers used Lovells for timber, as a fishing station, as a residence for the keepers of Boston Light and as a rabbit run.

The most pronounced and lasting effects, however came in the year 1900 when Fort Standish was established by the U.S. Government in their effort to defend the city of Boston. In the process of building the fort, hills were altered and the island cleared of vegetation.



Since the Island was abandoned by the military in 1946, the recovery of plant life has been vigorous. Water, birds and people have all been carriers of seeds, increasing the variety of plants on Lovells.

Grasses and wildflowers can be seen growing out of the abandoned foundations, and white oak, poplar and sumac have become well established.

The diversity of natural habitats that make up Lovells Island today: intertidal beaches, dunes, a salt marsh, fields and woodlands, has attracted a wide variety of birds to the Island. Migrating birds use the Island as a stepping stone to and from their breeding grounds. Lovells also offers a protected location and nesting area for gulls, shorebirds, owls, sparrows, blackbirds and warblers.

